

East Hill Church Sermon Discussion Guide:

Colossians 3: Living in the Fullness of Christ

Speaker: Jan Brauer (Guest Speaker)

Date: August 18, 2024

Introduction:

In this powerful sermon, guest speaker Jan Brauer continued the series on Colossians, focusing on how believers can live in the fullness of Christ. She emphasized the importance of mindset, identity, and practical applications of Christ-like living.

1. The Fullness of Christ:

Jan highlighted the concept of "fullness" in Colossians, emphasizing that believers are brought to fullness in Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to you to be "full" of Christ?
2. How have you experienced the fullness of God in your life?

Supporting Verses:

Colossians 2:9-10 (NLT) - "For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Paul was combating false teachings that diminished Christ's deity and sufficiency.
- Theological Significance: These verses emphasize the completeness of God's presence in Christ and our completeness in Him.

- Application: We should seek our sufficiency and completeness in Christ alone.

2. Renewing Our Mindset:

Jan stressed the importance of setting our minds on things above and clearing out old mindsets and habits.

Discussion Questions:

1. What practical steps can you take to set your mind on "things above"?
2. How have you seen your thoughts and actions change as you've focused more on Christ?

Supporting Verses:

Colossians 3:1-2 - "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Paul was encouraging the Colossians to live out their new identity in Christ.
- Theological Significance: These verses emphasize the importance of aligning our thoughts and desires with our new life in Christ.
- Application: We should intentionally focus our thoughts on Christ and heavenly priorities.

3. Embracing Our New Identity:

Jan emphasized the importance of understanding and living out our new identity in Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. How has your identity in Christ changed the way you view yourself and others?

2. In what areas of your life do you struggle to live out your new identity in Christ?

Supporting Verses:

Colossians 3:12 - "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Paul was describing the characteristics that should mark believers' lives.
- Theological Significance: This verse highlights our new status in Christ and the virtues that should flow from it.
- Application: We should actively "put on" Christ-like characteristics in our daily lives.

4. Practicing Forgiveness and Love:

Jan highlighted the importance of forgiveness and love in the Christian life.

Discussion Questions:

1. How has forgiveness (or unforgiveness) impacted your spiritual growth?
2. In what ways can you practice love and unity within our church community?

Supporting Verses:

Colossians 3:13-14 - "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Paul was addressing relational issues within the church community.

- **Theological Significance:** These verses emphasize forgiveness and love as essential characteristics of Christ-followers.
- **Application:** We should actively practice forgiveness and love in our relationships, reflecting God's forgiveness toward us.

Conclusion:

Jan Brauer's message reminded us of the importance of living in the fullness of Christ by renewing our mindset, embracing our new identity, and practicing forgiveness and love. By focusing on these aspects, we can experience transformation and unity in Christ.

Reflection Questions:

1. What area of your life needs a "mindset reset" to align more closely with Christ?
2. How can you more fully embrace and live out your identity in Christ this week?
3. Is there someone you need to forgive? How can you take steps toward forgiveness?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the fullness we have in Christ. Help us to set our minds on things above and to embrace our new identity as your chosen, holy, and dearly loved children. Give us the strength to forgive as we have been forgiven and to love others as you have loved us. May our lives overflow with your love, peace, and thankfulness, bringing unity to your church. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

References:

Primary Sources:

"Colossians 3: Living in the Fullness of Christ," East Hill Church, 08/18/2024. Delivered by Jan Brauer.

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Sande, Ken. "The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict." Baker Books, 2004.

Collaborative Contributions:

LLM Contributions: Based on a mixture of licensed data, data created by AI models, and publicly available data, synthesized for the study of the provided sermon notes and biblical passages.

LLM Training Data:

LLM Training Data. Includes a diverse range of texts (books, websites, and other publications) up to April 2024.